(b) the specific reasons for excluding Orissa from establishment of an IIM in the past, as well as during the Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Historically, Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) have been established in different parts of the Country on the demand of academia, industry and public in general.

(b) One Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) has been allotted to the State of Orissa during Eleventh Five Year Plan, hence it was not considered for establishment of an IIM during this Plan.

Decrease in drop-out rate

4018. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has brought down the school drop-out rate in the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the percentage of reduction reported in the backward regions of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Orissa, district-wise;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the breakup of funds earmarked and utilized to enhance the component of school drop-out rate during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) The dropout rate has fallen by 15.23 percentage points at primary level between 2001 upto 2005, compared to a decline of only 2.3 percentage points between the years 1990 and 2000. In the case of Andhra Pradesh, the reduction was 18.55 percentage points, for Tamil Nadu 27.24 percentage points and Orissa 0.88 percentage points between 2000 & 2005.

The main schemes being implemented to reduce drop out rates are the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and the Mid-day Meal Scheme, which have been provided with Central budgetary support of Rs. 13100 crore and Rs. 8000 crore respectively in 2008-09.

Suicides due to examination stress

4019. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the alarmingly increasing number of suicides among students at the school level due to examination stress and because of fear of failure;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to take any steps to deal with this serious situation;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Reports on cases of students committing suicide have appeared in newspapers from time to time.

(b) and (c) National Curriculum Framework (NCF), 2005 recommends measures like reduction of curriculum load, emphasis on comprehension and application of knowledge, focus on continuous and comprehensive evaluation, emphasis on testing of competencies rather than rote memory, making examination more flexible, provision of guidance and counselling in schools, and over all to make learning child-centric.

Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has already taken the following steps to reduce stress on students due to examination:—

a. Continous and comprehensive evaluation with marks assigned for internal assessment,

b. The examination system has been reconstructed to test more of conceptual knowledge and understanding rather than rote memory,

c. Additional 15 minutes time to give in class X and XII examinations to enable students to read question papers thoroughly,

d. Setting up of examination help-line and making available sample question papers,

e. Designing question papers to that all the questions can be answered in 2 hours even though the total period of examination is 3 hours,

f. Shift from content based testing to problem solving and competency based testing,

g. Higher weightage to practicals,

h. Introduction of Mathematics labs in schools to improve conceptual understanding,

i. Allowing students to appear in compartmental examination immediately after the declaration of the result of the main examination. Five chances are given in two subjects in class X and one subject in class XII.

CBSE has advised all senior secondary schools to appoint counsellors. It provides counselling facilities centrally to students and parents through telephone and e-mail before Xth and XIIth class examinations.

NCERT offers a course on Counselling and Guidance for regular teachers so that the latter can do part time counselling for students in need.

(d) Does not arise.

Establishment of one model school in each block

4020. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether is it a fact that Government proposes to build one Model School in each block of all the States on Public-Private Partnership (PPP) basis;

(b) if so, what are the details of criteria fixed for this public-private partnership; and

(c) what is the time-frame set for building and operationalisation of Model Schools in the country?

THE MINISTER STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Prime Minister in his Independence Day Speech of 2007 had announced the decision of the Government to